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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 4312

03/17/2022 Authored by Becker-Finn
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary Finance and Civil Law
03/24/2022 Adoption of Report: Re-referred to the Committee on Human Services Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to child protection; extending the effective date for mandatory reporting
1.3 for certain youth recreation program employees; modifying deadlines and duties
1.4 for the legislative task force on child protection; amending Laws 2021, First Special
1.5 Session chapter 7, article 10, sections 1; 3.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 7, article 10, section 1, the effective
1.8 date, is amended to read:

1.9 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective June 1, 2022 2023.

1.10 Sec. 2. Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 7, article 10, section 3, is amended to
1.11 read:

1.12 Sec. 3. LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE; CHILD PROTECTION.

1.13 (a) A legislative task force is created to:

1.14 (1) review the efforts being made to implement the recommendations of the Governor's
1.15 Task Force on the Protection of Children;

1.16 (2) expand the efforts into related areas of the child welfare system;

1.17 (3) work with the commissioner of human services and community partners to establish
1.18 and evaluate child protection grants to address disparities in child welfare pursuant to
1.19 Minnesota Statutes, section 256E.28;

2.1 ~~(4) review and recommend alternatives to law enforcement responding to a maltreatment~~
 2.2 ~~report by removing the child and evaluate situations in which it may be appropriate for a~~
 2.3 ~~social worker or other child protection worker to remove the child from the home;~~

2.4 ~~(5)~~ (1) evaluate current statutes governing mandatory reporters, consider the modification
 2.5 of mandatory reporting requirements for private or public youth recreation programs, and,
 2.6 if necessary, introduce legislation by February 15, ~~2022~~ 2023, to implement appropriate
 2.7 modifications; and

2.8 ~~(6) evaluate and consider the intersection of educational neglect and the child protection~~
 2.9 ~~system; and~~

2.10 ~~(7)~~ (2) identify additional areas within the child welfare system that need to be addressed
 2.11 by the legislature.

2.12 (b) Members of the legislative task force shall include:

2.13 (1) six members from the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house,
 2.14 including three from the majority party and three from the minority party; and

2.15 (2) six members from the senate, including three members appointed by the senate
 2.16 majority leader and three members appointed by the senate minority leader.

2.17 (c) Members of the task force shall serve a term that expires on December 31 of the
 2.18 ~~even-numbered~~ odd-numbered year following the year they are appointed. The speaker of
 2.19 the house and the majority leader of the senate shall each appoint a chair and vice-chair
 2.20 from the membership of the task force. The chair shall rotate after each meeting. The task
 2.21 force must meet at least quarterly.

2.22 (d) Initial appointments to the task force shall be made by July 15, ~~2021~~ 2022. The chair
 2.23 shall convene the first meeting of the task force by August 15, ~~2021~~ 2022.

2.24 (e) The task force may provide oversight and monitoring of:

2.25 (1) the efforts by the Department of Human Services, counties, and Tribes to implement
 2.26 laws related to child protection;

2.27 (2) efforts by the Department of Human Services, counties, and Tribes to implement the
 2.28 recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children;

2.29 (3) efforts by agencies including but not limited to the Department of Education, the
 2.30 Housing Finance Agency, the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Public
 2.31 Safety, to work with the Department of Human Services to assure safety and well-being for
 2.32 children at risk of harm or children in the child welfare system; and

3.1 (4) efforts by the Department of Human Services, other agencies, counties, and Tribes
3.2 to implement best practices to ensure every child is protected from maltreatment and neglect
3.3 and to ensure every child has the opportunity for healthy development.

3.4 ~~(f) The task force, in cooperation with the commissioner of human services, shall issue~~
3.5 ~~a report to the legislature and governor by February 1, 2024. The report must contain~~
3.6 ~~information on the progress toward implementation of changes to the child protection system,~~
3.7 ~~recommendations for additional legislative changes and procedures affecting child protection~~
3.8 ~~and child welfare, and funding needs to implement recommended changes.~~

3.9 ~~(g)~~ (f) This section expires December 31, ~~2024~~ 2025.